

General, Actor, Author Join Texans In Tribute to Rangers at Banquet

There were enough Texas Rangers in Fort Worth Friday night to handle a dozen riots but the officers were guests of honor at a banquet at Ridglea Country Club sponsored by the Texas Law Enforcement Foundation. Tribute also was paid to

all of the state's law enforcement officers.

The banquet was called an appreciation dinner. Such well-known personalities as Erle Stanley Gardner, author and creator of Perry Mason, and Actor Chill Wills were on hand to praise the lawmen.

The main talk of the evening was given by Lt. Gen. Charles P. Cabell, deputy director of the Central Intelligence Agency. Col. Homer Garrison Jr., Ranger boss and head of the State Department of Public Safety, was presented a plaque "as a tribute to the world's most famous and the nation's oldest state law enforcement team." The presentation was made by J. E. Connally of Abilene, president of the Texas Law Enforcement Foundation.

Gardner told the audience, "We can't pay these lawmen what they are worth.

"But we can pay them in terms of human understanding,

of human decency. We can make them the respected members of the community they deserve to be.

"You can't buy good law enforcement in the bargain basement," Gardner said.

A special tribute was paid to Police Chief R. D. Thorp of Austin who has been a police chief longer than any other man in the United States.

Master of Ceremonies Ben Wootten of Dallas said, "The very words 'Texas Ranger' fill every Texan's heart with pride."

And he noted that Friday night's appreciation dinner was the first time "we have paused to tell them of our gratitude."

General Cabell said the CIA watches the movements of the "Communist hard core." He said the intelligence officer's work is to provide our government with maximum room to maneuver and to prevent surprises where possible in the never-ending job of monitoring communism.